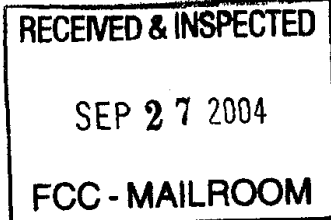




**Public Service Commission**  
State of North Dakota



COMMISSIONERS

Tony Clark, President  
Susan E. Wefald  
Kevin Cramer

Executive Secretary  
Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480  
web: [www.psc.state.nd.us](http://www.psc.state.nd.us)  
e-mail: [ndpsc@psc.state.nd.us](mailto:ndpsc@psc.state.nd.us)  
TDD 800-366-6888  
Fax 701-328-2410  
Phone 701-328-2400

September 23, 2004

Marlene H Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW Room TW – A306  
Washington D C 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Irene M Flannery  
Vice President High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L St NW Ste 200  
Washington D C 20036

RE: Certification of High Cost Support for Rural Carriers Under 47 C.F.R Sections  
54.314 CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

Attached is a list of rural carriers which have accounted to the North Dakota Public Service Commission by affidavit that all federal support they will receive in 2005 will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254 (e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Also attached is a copy of the September 22, 2004 Order of the North Dakota Public Service Commission and the affidavits from the companies listed.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
Susan E. Wefald  
Commissioner

  
Tony Clark  
President

  
Kevin Cramer  
Commissioner

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

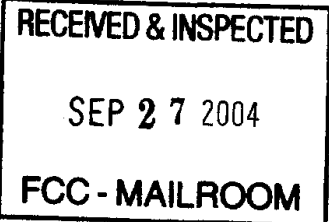
RECEIVED &amp; INSPECTED

SEP 27 2004

FCC - MAILROOM

COMPANY NAME	STUDY AREA CODE
Absaraka Co-operative Telephone Company, Inc.	381601
BEK Communications Cooperative	381604
Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership	
Bismarck MSA Limited Partnership	
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc.	
Consolidated Telcom	381607
Dakota Central Telecom I	381610
Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative	381610
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.	381611
Dickey Rural Communications Inc.	381611
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative	381611
Griggs County Telephone Company	381615
Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC	381616
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company	391664
Loretel Systems, Inc.	361443
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc.	482246
Midstate Communications Inc	381638
Midstate Telephone Company	381617
Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.	382247
Moore & Liberty Telephone Company	381622
Nemont Telephone Cooperative Inc	382247
Noonan Farmers Telephone Company	381623
North Central RSA 2 of North Dakota Limited Partnership	
North Dakota RSA 3 of North Dakota Limited Partnership	
North Dakota 5 – Kidder Limited Partnership	
North Dakota Network Co.	389004
North Dakota Telephone Company	381447
Northwest Communications Cooperative, a Cooperative Association	381625
Northwest Dakota Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership	
Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation	381630
Polar Telcom, Inc.	389003
Polar Telecommunications, Inc.	381614
RC Communications, Inc.	391674
Red River Rural Telephone Association	381631
Red River Telecom, Inc.	381631
Reservation Telephone Cooperative	381632
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association	391674
SRT Communications, Inc.	383303
Turtle Mountain Communications	381636
United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation	381636
Venture Communications, Inc.	391680
Western Wireless Corporation	389001
West River Cooperative Telephone Company	391689
West River Telecommunications Cooperative	381637

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



**Public Service Commission**  
**USF Use Certification 47CFR54.314 (2005)**  
**Compliance**

**Case No. PU-04-378**

**ORDER**

**September 22, 2004**

Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act) requires telecommunications carriers to use universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended." On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (Fourteenth R&O). The Fourteenth R&O requires that each state public utility regulatory authority file an annual certification with the FCC to ensure that rural telecommunications carriers receiving federal funds under the program use the support only as provided in Section 254(e) of the Act. State certification must be filed no later than October 1 of each year in order for certified telecommunications carriers to receive support for the following year, 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(d).

On August 28, 2002, the NDPSC issued an order in Case No. PU-439-02-441 indicating that any telecommunications carrier providing local exchange service in North Dakota that desires to have NDPSC certification to the FCC under 47 C.F.R. §§54.313 or 54.314 shall file an affidavit with the NDPSC by September 14 of each year, as described in the order, certifying that federal support they receive is used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended as required by Section 254(e). The NDPSC further ordered that affidavits filed with the NDPSC will be the basis for the NDPSC's certification to the FCC.

Affidavits regarding use of federal universal service support for the year 2005 were filed with the NDPSC by the companies listed in the ordering clause below.

Under North Dakota law, the NDPSC has limited jurisdiction over rural telecommunications carriers. The FCC in its order recognized that some states have only limited regulatory oversight to ensure that federal universal support is reflected in intrastate rates and concluded that such states may nonetheless certify to the FCC that carriers in the state had accounted to the state commission for receipt of federal support, and that the support will be used as required under Section 254(e). (See Fourteenth R&O at ¶ 188). The FCC also recognized that some carriers may not be subject to the jurisdiction of a state regulatory authority, and in those instances carriers

can certify directly to the FCC by means of a sworn affidavit executed by a corporate officer attesting to the use of the support only for purposes permitted under the Act. (See Fourteenth R&O at ¶ 189).

Based on the foregoing, the NDPSC issues the following:

### **Order**

The NDPSC orders:

1. The NDPSC certifies that the following Eligible Telecommunications Carriers providing local exchange service in North Dakota have accounted to the NDPSC by affidavit that all federal support they receive is used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended as required by Section 254(e), or that they will only use the support they receive during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended under and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 throughout each respective company's study area:

#### **LIST OF COMPANIES**

Absaraka Co-operative Telephone Company, Inc.	North Central RSA 2 of North Dakota Limited Partnership
BEK Communications Cooperative	North Dakota RSA 3 of North Dakota Limited Partnership
Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership	North Dakota 5 – Kidder Limited Partnership
Bismarck MSA Limited Partnership	North Dakota Network Co.
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc.	North Dakota Telephone Company
Consolidated Telcom	Northwest Communications Cooperative, a Cooperative Association
Dakota Central Telecom I	Northwest Dakota Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership
Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative	Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.	Polar Telcom, Inc.
Dickey Rural Communications Inc.	Polar Telecommunications, Inc.
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative	RC Communications, Inc.
Griggs County Telephone Company	Red River Rural Telephone Association
Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC	Red River Telecom, Inc.
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company	Reservation Telephone Cooperative
Loretel Systems, Inc.	Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc.	SRT Communications, Inc.
Midstate Communications Inc	Turtle Mountain Communications
Midstate Telephone Company	United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation
Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.	Venture Communications, Inc.
Moore & Liberty Telephone Company	


Nemont Telephone Cooperative Inc  
Noonan Farmers Telephone Company

Western Wireless Corporation  
West River Cooperative Telephone Company  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative

2. The NDPSC certification is based upon the affidavits filed by the foregoing named Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.
3. A copy of each of the filed affidavits is attached to this order.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan E. Wefald  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Clark  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Cramer  
Commissioner

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Public Service Commission**  
**USF Use Certification 47CFR54.314 (2005)**  
**Compliance**

**Case No. PU-04-378**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

**Sharon Helbling** deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **23rd day of September, 2004**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **28** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and each containing a photocopy of:

**Order**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Jerome Tishmack  
BEK Communications Cooperative  
P O Box 230  
Steele ND 58482-0230  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0487**

Lance Tade  
Citizens Tele Co of MN  
4 Triad Ctr Ste 200  
Salt Lake City UT 84180  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0494**

Paul Schuetzler  
Consolidated Telcom  
P O Box 1408  
Dickinson ND 58602-1408  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0500**

Keith Larson  
Dakota Central Telecom I  
Dakota Central Telecomm Coop  
P O Box 299  
Carrington ND 58421-0299  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0517**

Mark Scallon  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
Dickey Rural Communications Inc  
Dickey Rural Access Inc  
P O Box 69  
Ellendale ND 58436-0069  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0524**

Ray Brown  
Griggs County Telephone Co  
Moore & Liberty Telephone Co  
P O Box 506  
Cooperstown ND 58425-0506  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0531**

Mark J Ayotte  
Briggs and Morgan  
332 Minnesota St  
St Paul MN 55101  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0548**

Keith Anderson  
Inter-Community Telephone Company LLC  
P O Box 8  
Nome ND 58062  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0555**

Kent Hyde  
James Valley Coop Telephone Co  
1001 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE  
Aberdeen SD 57401-4702  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0562**

Gerry Anderson  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Coop Inc  
P O Box 280  
Circle MT 59215-0280  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0586**

Ron Ostberg  
Nemont Telephone Cooperative Inc  
P O Box 600  
Scobey MT 59263-0600  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0609**

Dave Dircks  
North Dakota Telephone Company  
P O Box 180  
Devils Lake ND 58301-0180  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0654**

David Dunning  
Polar Communications Mut Aid Corp  
Polar Telecommunications Inc  
P O Box T  
Park River ND 58270  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0678**

Royce Aslakson  
Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
P O Box 68  
Parshall ND 58770  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0692**

Steve Lysne  
SRT Communications Inc  
North Dakota Network Co  
P O Box 2027  
Minot ND 58702-2027  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0715**

Jerry Reisenauer  
West River Cooperative Tele Co  
P O Box 39  
Bison SD 57620  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0739**

Randy Houdek  
Venture Communications Inc  
P O Box 157  
Highmore SD 57345-0157  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0579**

Mark Wilhelmi  
Midstate Telephone Company  
Midstate Communications Inc  
P O Box 400  
Stanley ND 58784  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0593**

Larry Clemens  
Noonan Farmers Telephone Company  
P O Box 39  
Noonan ND 58785  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0647**

Dwight Schmitt  
Northwest Communications Cooperative  
P O Box 38  
Ray ND 58849-0038  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0661**

Jeff Olson  
Red River Rur Tele Assoc  
Red River Telecom Inc  
P O Box 136  
Abercrombie ND 58001  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0685**

Pam Harrington  
RC Communications Inc  
Roberts County Tele Coop Assn  
P O Box 197  
New Effington SD 57255  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0708**

Kenneth G Carlson  
Turtle Mountain Communications  
United Telephone Mut Aid Corp  
P O Box 729  
Langdon ND 58249-0729  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0722**

Albert Grosz  
West River Telecommunications  
P O Box 467  
Hazen ND 58545-0467  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0746**

Gene DeJordy  
Western Wireless Corp  
3650 131<sup>st</sup> Ave SE #400  
Bellevue WA 98006  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0753**

Ann Faught  
Absaraka Co-Operative Tele Co  
P O Box 27  
Absaraka ND 58002  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0760**

Steven W Katka  
Loretel Systems Inc  
P O Box 72  
Ada MN 56510  
**Cert. No. 7003 2260 0001 3517 0777**

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **23rd day of September, 2004.**

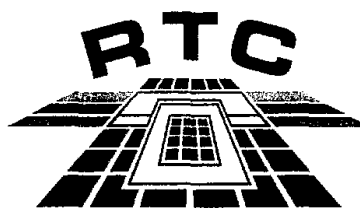
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Notary Public

SEAL

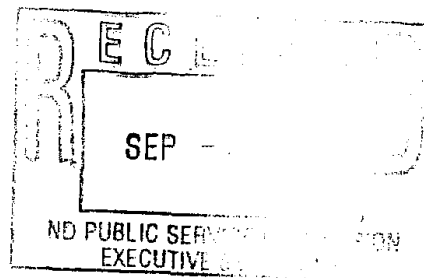
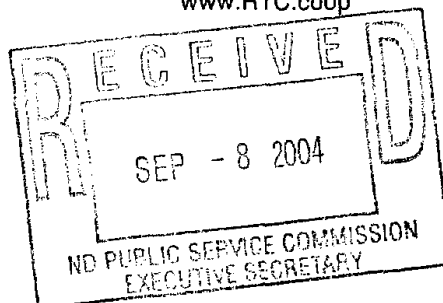




www.RTC.coop

ROYCE S. ASLAKSON  
CEO / General Manager

September 3, 2004



North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capital  
600 E Blvd. Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: USF Certification – Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 and PU-439-02-441

Dear Commission:

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's order of August 28, 2002, in the above referenced proceeding, is an affidavit certifying that all Universal Service support will only be used by Reservation Telephone Cooperative for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, Reservation Telephone Cooperative is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Royce S. Aslakson, CEO/General Manager

RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

RSA/dmw

56 PU-04-378

Pages: 1

Letter re USF Use Certification

by Reservation Telephone Cooperative

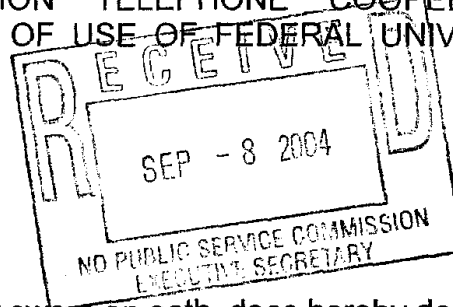
09/08/2004

CC: Comm Legal PUD (3)

**BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO.  
PU-439-02-441  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET  
NO.96-45**

AFFIDAVIT OF RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE  
REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL  
SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota       )  
  ss.  
County of Mountrail        )



Royce S. Aslakson, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Reservation Telephone Cooperative (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of CEO/General Manager.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.
4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23,2001, in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28,2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28,2002, in Case No. PU- 439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.
5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F .R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F .R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the

public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

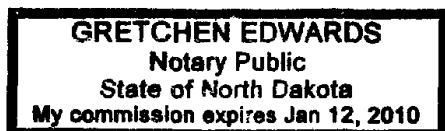
Dated this 3rd day of September, 2004.

RESERVATION TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE

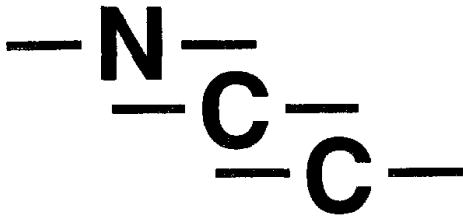
By Royce S. Aslakson  
Royce S. Aslakson Its:  
CEO/General Manager

State of North Dakota        )  
  ss.  
County of Mountrail        )

On this 3rd day of September, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared ROYCE S. ASLAKSON, known to me to be the CEO/General Manager of RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.



Gretchen Edwards  
Mountrail County, Notary Public  
For the State of North Dakota  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_



## Northwest Communications Cooperative

P.O. Box 38  
Ray, ND 58849

701-568-3331  
FAX: 701-568-7777

800-245-5884  
ncc@nccray.com

September 3, 2004



ND Public Service Commission  
State Capitol – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: USF Certification – Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 & PU-439-02-441**

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above-referenced proceeding, is an Affidavit certifying that all universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Dwight Schmitt  
General Manager/CEO  
Northwest Communications Cooperative

sjl

Enclosure

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE REGARDING  
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota       )  
  ) ss.  
County of Williams         )

Dwight Schmitt, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Northwest Communications Cooperative (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of General Manager/CEO.

2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001 in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.

5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to

emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.


Dated this 3 day of September, 2004.

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS  
COOPERATIVE

By   
Dwight Schmitt  
Its: General Manager/CEO

State of North Dakota     )  
  ) ss.  
County of Williams         )

On this 3 day of September, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared DWIGHT SCHMITT, known to me to be the General Manager/CEO of NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

, Notary Public  
For the State of North Dakota  
My commission expires: 3-15-2008

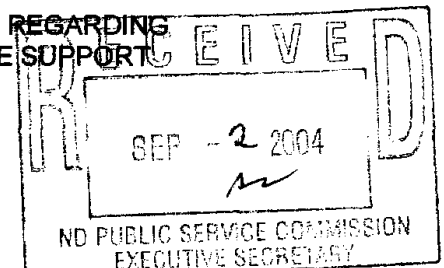
**BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-01-460**

**AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45**

**AFFIDAVIT OF VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE REGARDING  
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT**

State of North Dakota )

County of )ss.



Randy W. Houdek, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Venture Communications Cooperative, (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Manager.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. The Company serves 9 access lines within the boundaries of North Dakota and approximately 13,500 access lines within the boundaries of South Dakota.
4. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.
5. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001 in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. \* 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. \* 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Order of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001 in Case No. PU-439-01-460. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2004, and for all quarters thereafter.
6. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. \* 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. \* 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to

emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2004.

VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

By:   
Randy W. Houdek

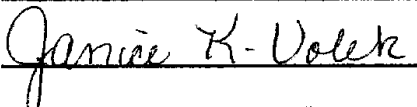
Its: Manager

State of South Dakota )

) ss.

County of Hyde )

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared RANDY W. HOUDEK, known to me to be the Manager for VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

, Notary Public  
For the State of South Dakota

My commission expires: 3-10-10



# Mid-Rivers

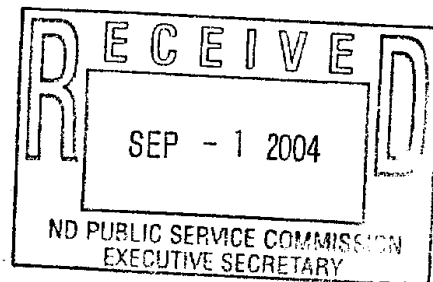
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue  
Circle, Montana 59215  
(406) 485-3301 • Fax: (406) 485-2924  
[www.midrivers.com](http://www.midrivers.com)

August 25, 2004

**CERTIFIED MAIL: 7099 3220 0006 6038 2412**

Jon Mielke  
Executive Secretary  
Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota  
State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard  
Bismarck ND 58505-0490



RE: Universal Service Support Affidavit for Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Mr. Mielke:

Please find enclosed an affidavit to be filed in compliance with the order of the Federal Communications Commission dated May 23, 2001 in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Order of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2002 in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is being filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.

If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact my office.

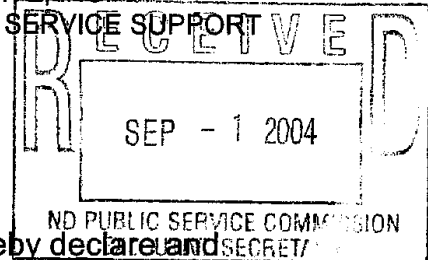
  
Gerry Anderson  
General Manager

Attachment

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of Montana )  
 ) ss.  
County of McCone )



Kevin Braun, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of President.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.
4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001 in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Order of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2002 in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.
5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its

functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll blocking for qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2004.

MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

By Kevin Braun  
Kevin Braun  
Its: President

State of Montana     )  
                                  ) ss.  
County of McCone    )

On this 25th day of August, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared KEVIN BRAUN, known to me to be the President of MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC., the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

Dianne K. Murphree  
Notary Public For the State of Montana  
My commission expires: January 12, 2008



www.mlgc.com

Telephone/Internet  
Communications

**GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY**

905 Lenham Avenue SE • PO Box 506 • Cooperstown, North Dakota 58425-0506

Telephone: 701-797-3301 • Fax: 701-797-2543

E-mail: cooperstown@mlgc.com

August 25, 2004

ND Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

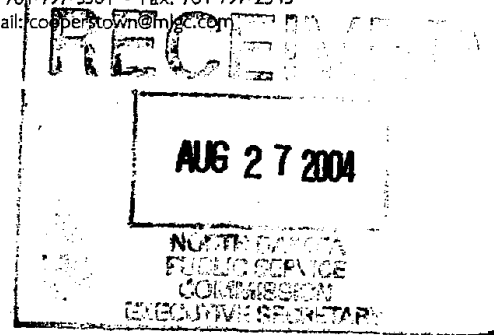
Attention: Jon H. Mielke, Executive Secretary

RE: USF Certification - Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 & PU-439-02-441

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above-referenced proceeding, is an affidavit certifying that all universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

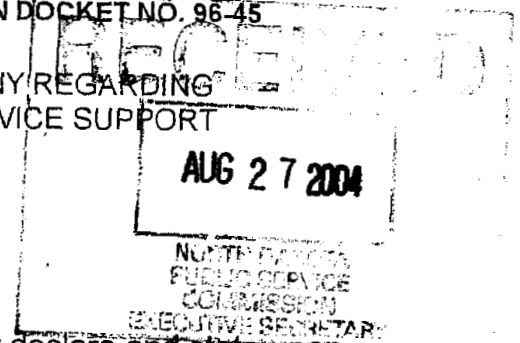
Ray Brown  
President  
Griggs County Telephone Co.



BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY REGARDING  
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota       )  
  ) ss.  
County of Griggs            )



Ray G. Brown, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Griggs County Telephone Company (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Manager.

2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001 in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.

5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its

functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE  
COMPANY

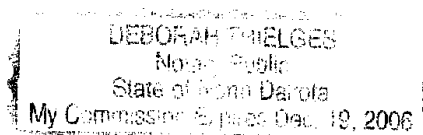
By

Ray G. Brown  
Ray G. Brown  
Its. Manager

State of North Dakota     )  
                    Ransom     ) ss.  
County of ~~Griggs~~     )

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared RAY G. BROWN, known to me to be the Manager of GRIGGS COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

Deborah Thielges  
Ransom, Notary Public  
For the State of North Dakota  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_





www.mlgc.com

Telephone/Internet  
Communications

**MOORE & LIBERTY TELEPHONE COMPANY**

301 Dewey Street • PO Box 66 • Enderlin, North Dakota 58027-0066  
Telephone: 701-437-3300 • Fax: 701-437-3022  
E-mail: mhandl@mlgc.com

August 25, 2004

ND Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

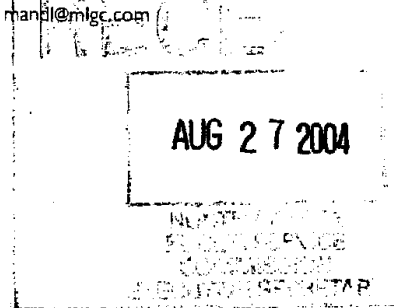
Attention: Jon H. Mielke, Executive Secretary

RE: USF Certification - Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 & PU-439-02-441

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above-referenced proceeding, is an affidavit certifying that all universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Ray Brown  
President  
Moore & Liberty Telephone Co.

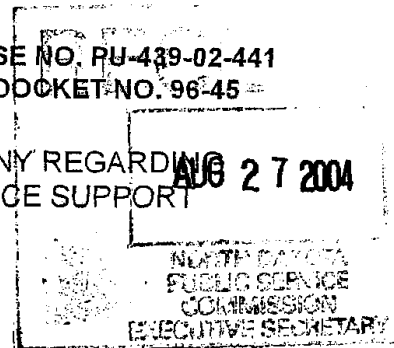


BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF MOORE AND LIBERTY TELEPHONE COMPANY REGARDING  
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

AUG 27 2004

State of North Dakota       )  
  ) ss.  
County of Ransom            )



Ray G. Brown, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Moore and Liberty Telephone Company (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Manager.

2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2005, and for all quarters thereafter.

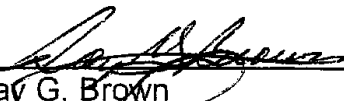
5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2005 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its



functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

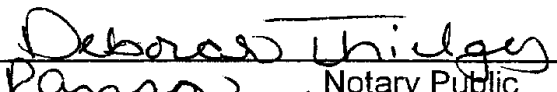
Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

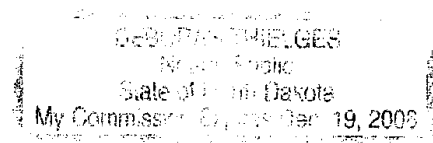
MOORE AND LIBERTY TELEPHONE  
COMPANY

By   
Ray G. Brown  
Its: Manager

State of North Dakota     )  
                    Ransom     ) ss.  
County of Ransom     )

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared RAY G. BROWN, known to me to be the Manager of MOORE AND LIBERTY TELEPHONE COMPANY, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

  
Ransom, Notary Public  
For the State of North Dakota  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_





Nemont

Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

TOTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

August 17, 2004

Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

AUG 27 2004

**RE: North Dakota PSC 2004 ETC certification to the FCC for 2005 federal universal service support, PSC Case No. PU-439-02-441**

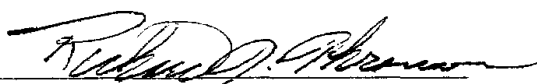
Dear Commissioners:

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (NECA code – 382247, OCN 4453) and Missouri Valley Communications, Inc. (NECA code 382247, OCN 587A), both part of the Nemont study area, are incumbent rural telephone companies serving the North Dakota exchanges of: **Nemont** – East Westby (985), Fortuna (834), and Ambrose (982); and **Missouri Valley** – Williston (572, 774, and 577). Map is enclosed of service area.

As General Manager, I have executed the enclosed affidavit certifying that Nemont Telephone Cooperative and Missouri Valley Communications will use all 2005 federal support provided through the federal rural and non-rural high-cost funding mechanisms for and only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Nemont Telephone Cooperative and Missouri Valley Communications respectfully request the North Dakota Public Service Commission provide the necessary 2004 certification to the FCC and USAC so as to permit the continued receipt of federal universal service support to our Companies in 2005. Questions concerning this certification should be directed to: Richard J. Thronson, General Manager, Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Scobey, Montana 59263, or by telephone at 1-406-783-2200.

Sincerely,

  
Richard J. Thronson, General Manager  
Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

44 PU-04-378

Pages: 1

Cover letter re USF Use Certification

by Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

08/27/2004

CC: Comm Legal PUD (3)

Enclosures: Affidavit  
Map of service area

45 PU-04-378

Pages: 1

Cover letter re USF Use Certification

by Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.

08/27/2004

CC: Comm Legal PUD (3)



Nemont

Telephone Cooperative, INC.

TOTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2004

**AFFIDAVIT**

**NORTH DAKOTA PSC 2004 ETC CERTIFICATION TO THE FCC FOR  
2005 FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT  
PSC CASE NO. PU-439-02-441**

**NEMONT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
And  
MISSOURI VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

I, Richard J. Thronson, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath state that I am the General Manager of Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Missouri Valley Communications, Inc. (Companies) and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Companies and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Pursuant to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 C.F.R. §54.314, there must be an annual certification that funds received under the Federal Universal Service Fund programs will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Companies hereby certify to the North Dakota Public Service Commission that pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.7 and for purposes of the North Dakota Public Service Commission certification required under 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Companies will use all federal high-cost support provided to them only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with the principles of universal service set forth in 47 USC 254, including, but not limited to, the provision of services that are properly supported by the high-cost funds at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 2004.

Signed:

Richard J. Thronson

Richard J. Thronson

General Manager

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and

Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

Kaylin D. Gunderson  
Notary Public in and for the State of Montana.

My Commission expires: 04/04/2009

Kaylin D. Gunderson

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Pages: 2

USF Use Certification 47CFR54.314  
(2005)/Affidavit  
by Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

43 PU-04-378

Pages: 2

USF Use Certification 47CFR54.314  
(2005)/Affidavit  
by Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.

# OUR SERVICE AREAS

CANADA  
U.S.

